

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A device for pressing a ceramic stacked layer structure, comprising:  
a die body having a bottom plate and at least one side wall, the bottom plate  
and the at least one side wall forming a recess for receiving a ceramic stacked layer  
structure;

at least one thrust mechanism for applying force to the at least one side wall  
in a direction toward the recess; and

a top die for pressing the ceramic stacked layer structure between the top die  
and the bottom plate of the die body.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein the bottom plate and the at least one side  
wall are discrete components.

3. The device of claim 1, wherein the bottom plate and the at least one side  
wall are separable.

4. The device of claim 1, wherein the at least one side wall is integral with  
the bottom plate.

5. The device of claim 1, wherein the ceramic layered structure comprises a  
plurality of ceramic green sheets located adjacent one to another.

6. The device of claim 1, further comprising a die base which supports the  
bottom plate of the die body, and to which the at least one thrust mechanism is  
attached.

7. The device of claim 1, further including at least one contact member  
which comes into contact with said at least one side wall, said at least one thrust  
mechanism applying force to said at least one side wall via said at least one contact  
member.

8. The device of claim 7, wherein said at least one thrust mechanism includes a thrust member, wherein one end of said thrust member is connected to said at least one contact member.

9. The device according to claim 1, wherein said thrust mechanism includes a piston and cylinder type of thrust mechanism.

10. The device of claim 1, wherein the bottom plate includes a step formed at its periphery, and said at least one side wall is fitted to said step.

11. The device of claim 1, wherein there are four side walls which form a frame.

12. The device of claim 11, wherein there are four thrust mechanisms for applying force against said four side walls, respectively.

13. The device of claim 12, further comprising four contact members which come into contact with said four side walls, respectively, said four thrust mechanisms applying force to said respective four side walls via said respective four contact members.

14. A method for pressing a ceramic stacked layer structure, comprising the steps of:

laterally positioning a die on a die base using a plurality of thrust mechanisms, wherein the die has a bottom plate and sidewalls forming a recess for receiving the ceramic layered structure;

pressing the ceramic layered structure in the recess between the bottom plate and a top die; and

simultaneously applying lateral force via the plurality of thrust mechanisms on outer faces of the sidewalls in directions toward the recess.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the thrust mechanisms are attached to the die base.

5 16. The method of claim 14, wherein the bottom plate and sidewalls are discrete components.

17. The method of claim 14, wherein the bottom plate and the sidewalls are integral.

10 18. The method of claim 14, further comprising the steps of:  
placing the stacked layer structure into the recess in the die; and  
transporting the die with the stacked layer structure in the recess to the die base.

15 19. The method of claim 14, wherein said plurality of thrust mechanisms comprise four thrust mechanisms.

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